

REMARKS

In paragraph 3 of the Action, claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rosenthal et al. or Saito et al.

In view of the rejections, claims 6 and 7 have been added. Claims 1-5 have not been changed. Therefore, claims 1-7 are pending in the application.

A gel process plate of the invention comprises a base member having a plurality of concave portions, and a lid member having a plurality of convex portions. Each concave portion has a depth and a bottom surface or portion provided with holes for allowing a liquid to pass therethrough. Each convex portion has a height less than the depth of the concave portion of the base member, and a top surface or portion with holes for allowing the liquid to pass therethrough. The convex portions are formed at portions corresponding to the concave portions of the base member to fit the concave portions. When the base member and the lid member are assembled, a space is defined between each of the bottom surface or portion of the concave portion and each of the top surface or portion of the convex portion to hold a piece therein for processing. In a condition that the piece is held between the bottom portion and the top portion, the liquid can pass through the holes of the top and bottom portions.

In Rosenthal et al., a device for performing a process of solid phase sequencing of nucleic acid fragments includes sequencing block 1, and a lid 2 for covering the block 1. The sequencing block 1 includes individual reaction vessels 1.2 or 1.4, and the lid 2 includes rigid cover 2.2 and a yieldable packing 2.1.

In the invention, each concave portion has a bottom surface or portion with holes, and each convex portion has a top surface or portion with the holes. In Rosenthal et al., there is no bottom

surface or portion with holes nor top surface or portion with holes in the concave and convex portions.

In Saito et al., an electrophoresis device includes a base portion 12, and a lid portion 14 connected together by a hinge 16. The lid portion 14 has an array of slits 18 corresponding to wells to be formed in the gel-matrix layer 40 at the base portion 12.

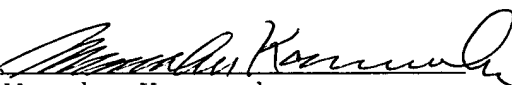
In the invention, each concave portion has a bottom surface or portion with holes, and each convex portion has a top surface or portion with the holes. In Saito et al., the lid portion 14 has the slits 18, but there is no hole or slit in the base portion 12.

A rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 102 requires every element of the claim to be included in the reference, either directly or inherently. Rosenthal et al. does not have the bottom surface or portion with holes nor top surface or portion with holes, and Saito et al. does not have the bottom surface or portion with holes as recited in claims 1 and 6 of the application. In this reason, claims of the application are at least patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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